

Longacre's Ledger

Vol. 5, No. 3

Summer 1995



Official Publication

Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

The "Fly-In Club"

Single Copy \$4.50



SUMMER 1995

LONGACRE'S LEDGER
Official Publication of the
FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Vol. 5, No. 3

Summer 1995

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The purpose of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society is to promote the study and collection of Longacre's design of small cents.

OFFICERS

President	Richard Snow
Secretary	Xan Chamberlain
Treasurer	Charles Jones
Publisher/Editor	Larry R. Steve

State Representatives

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ON THE COVER...

1865 Fancy 5 Doubled Die Reverse Indian Cent

The total reported mintage for this date is 35,429,286, although this particular variety has an overall rating of very rare (R-6). It is the strongest offset hub doubling (Class IV) for the series. A very popular variety, rarely offered for sale.

(courtesy Jack Beymer, photo by Tom Mulvaney)

Articles, opinions and comments appearing in this Journal reflect the views of their author and may or may not agree with those of the Society.

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LONGACRE'S LEDGER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Rick Snow, President
Fly-In Club Life Member #1



The long awaited book on Indian Cent Varieties by Larry Steve and Kevin Flynn is now out and on sale. If you are at all interested in Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Varieties, I urge you to get your copy today. In general, I feel that Larry and Kevin have done a fine job in presenting a much needed update and value guide for the top 100 varieties of our favorite series.

The short history of Indian Cent variety collecting has progressed far from a few bold soles who prior to 1990 collected varieties listed in Breen's Encyclopedia only. There turned out to be more interesting varieties than anyone had guessed. With the publication of My Book "*Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*" in 1992, collectors had a solid list of premium value varieties. By that books very nature as being the first collectors guide devoted only to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents, the rarity levels and interest level could only be approximated by what was known at the time. With this foundation, collectors could communicate, rarity levels could be established and condition census could be made. Periodically, the amassed data needs to be put out in one source. For varieties, this is that source.

While the question "What is it?" has been previously ~~only answered~~, the questions "What's it worth?", "How rare is it?" and "How many collectors are interested?" are now answered in this new book. A truism in book publishing is that a book with prices is outdated as soon as it is printed. Larry and Kevin have overcome this problem by using a premium factor table which pinpoints an expected level of value for varieties based on demand and base price. Demand and rarity are both fluctuating values, so pinpointing a varieties value now becomes an easier procedure that previously used methods.

The historical records from the National Archives provided an interesting chapter. Possibly an expanded version covering all numismatics would make a great book by itself. Any plans along this line Kevin?

The attention given to the die making process is also well done, and deserves careful attention by all collectors, regardless of there interests.

There is a constant flow of new information about Flying Eagle and Indian Cents being gathered and it is necessary for that information to get out into collectors hands to be of real use. I want to thank Larry and Kevin for a fine effort in this regard.

DAVE'S

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Elections ballots are contained within this issue. Although the slate of candidates remains unopposed (except for President), please be sure to vote. Your comments are also welcomed. Just drop us a line to let us know how we're doing or what you would like to see in the Ledger or have the Club do.

To date, I have received quite a few favorable comments with respect to the book. The enlarged photos, rarity and pricing information seem to receive the greatest attention. Of course, others have enjoyed the historic accounting (especially the numerous archival letters in Appendix A). All in all, the book contains a wealth of information.

This year I plan to attend the ANA Convention held in Anaheim; I hope to see a number of members at the show. In addition, the Club will hold a general meeting, at which Rick has asked me to speak. The meeting will be held on Friday, August 18th at 10:30 a.m. in room A14. See ya there.

I have finally been able to get the printing of the Ledger back on a reasonable track. But, (I hate to sound like a broken record) we do need to have your continued input with the submission of new articles. We will print your Letters to the Editor, or perhaps you may want to submit a question to our Questions and Answers section that we ran a few issues back. Remember, a journal is the cornerstone of any organization and is a measure of its success.

Until the next issue ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* * * ELECTIONS * * *

Elections ballots are within this issue. Please be sure to vote. The term of office is for two years commencing on January, 1996.

*** VICE PRESIDENT OFFICE ***

A new office of Vice President has been created for the Club. The primary duties of this office are to represent and promote the interest of the Club, and to assume the responsibilities of the President in his absence.

* * * BY-LAWS COMMITTEE * * *

A new By-Laws Committee has been created for the purpose of drafting the Constitution and By-Laws of our Club. The chairman of this committee is Mark McWherter; his address is 1107 E. Northview Ave., Olathe, KS 66061-2968. Members who wish to serve on this Committee should contact Mark.

* * * LIFE MEMBERSHIP * * *

A new category of Life Member has been created for those interested. The dues for this membership is \$300.00. Members who have paid their annual dues for regular membership and who wish to convert to life membership during the remainder of 1995 will be credited with \$15.00 plus any pre-paid annual dues, the difference would then be due for this conversion. Current low regular membership numbers will be reserved for life membership numbers until December 31, 1995, afterwhich life membership numbers will be assigned sequentially on a first-come first-serve basis.

*** CLUB MEETINGS ***

We have scheduled our annual Club meeting to be held at the ANA Convention in Anaheim. The meeting will be on Friday, August 18th at 10:30 a.m. in room A14. Please be sure to attend.

We would also encourage the State Representatives to schedule local Club meetings at shows held in their general regions.

INFORMATION ON STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The names and addresses of our Representatives by State are provided so that our current and prospective members may have a local contact with respect to Club programs and events.

Alaska
Robert L. Hall
P.O. Box 242212
Anchorage, AK
99524-2212

California
Xan Chamberlain
P.O. Box 915
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Florida
Douglas W. Hill
P.O. Box 1483
Winter Park, FL 32790

Indiana
Chris Pilliod
P.O. Box 12722
Fort Wayne, IND 46864

Kansas
Mark R. McWherter
1107 E. Northview Ave.
Olathe, KS 66061-2968

Kentucky
Bill Weikel, Ph.D.
P. O. Box 209
Morehead, KY 40351

Louisiana
Ken Fyffe
P.O. Box 4371
Fort Polk, LA 71459

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Larry R. Steve
P.O. Box 291
Jarrettsville, MD
21084

Michigan
S. Scott Smith
P.O. Box 411
Delton, MI 49046

New Hampshire
Lawrence M. Sturup
22 W. Yellowstone Dr.
Londonderry, NH
03053-7468

New York
W. O. Walker
P.O. Box 2221
Wilton, NY 12831

North Carolina
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P.O. Box 21322
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27120

Ohio
Jerome I. Wysong
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18966

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Arlington, VA
22202

Washington
Kenneth R. Hill
3200 S. Mt. Baker Blvd.
Seattle, WA 98144

Wisconsin
Ronald W. Neuman
P.O. Box 20772
Greenfield, WI
53220-0772

GREAT NEWS FOR FLY-IN CLUB MEMBERS!

**BACK ISSUES OF LONGACRE'S LEDGER ARE
AVAILABLE FOR SALE!!**

Back issues cost \$5.00 each (which includes first class postage).
Mark the ones desired and return this form (or a photocopy of this
form) to the: Fly-In Club, P.O. Box 915, Palo Alto, CA 94302; with
your check or money order payable to the "Fly-In Club":

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_____	Issue 1-1*	January, 1991*
_____	Issue 1-2	April, 1991
_____	Issue 1-3	July, 1991
_____	Issue 1-4	October, 1991
_____	Issue 2-1	January, 1992
_____	Issue 2-2	April, 1992
_____	Issue 2-3	July, 1992
_____	Issue 2-4	October, 1992
_____	Issue 3-1	Winter, 1993
_____	Issue 3-2	Spring, 1993
_____	Issue 3-3	Summer, 1993
_____	Issue 3-4	Fall, 1993
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Name: _____
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Address: _____

A COUNTERFEIT 1869 INDIAN CENT

by Christopher F. Pilliod

I recently reported on a counterfeit 1909 Lincoln cent stuck on a 1909 Indian cent (The Numismatist, July 1994). In my continuing duties as authenticator for the Fly-In Club, I receive a significant quantity of high-grade key dated Indians. The vast majority are genuine pieces, and the submitter is interested only in its attribution as a variety, such as a repunched date, a doubled die, and so on. Recently, however, this was not the case. An avid Southwestern member with an extensive Indian cent collection submitted a number of key date Indians for examination. Unfortunately, three (3) of the pieces turned out to be counterfeit, an 1869 in uncirculated condition and two 1909S specimens in high-end circulated grades.

The 1909S pieces were struck from two different dies, one of which was rather shoddily made, the other considerably better. These may be the subject of a future article. The 1869 piece, on the other hand, was a very good looking piece, quite believable in appearance. This coin may have passed collector hands easily without incident. This latter coin will be the focus of this article, with an accompanying exploration on what to look for in counterfeit detection of Indian cents.



An enlarged obverse and reverse photo shows the piece to be very sharply detailed in the feathers, date, lettering, as well as the reverse wreath. The color of the piece is an overall normal brown with just a peek of rusty mint red in isolated spots. The size and shape of the digits in the date as well as the obverse lettering is technically correct in size and shape. All in all, a good looking specimen of a true date.

COUNTERFEIT



GENUINE



In fact, very good looking -- except the perpetrator made one glaring mistake on his work. So glaring that it did not even require the use of any magnifying glass. The guilty party used the wrong style reverse for his die; a reverse die that was not used by the mint until 1870. A closeup photo of the words "ONE CENT" of the counterfeit alongside a genuine piece clearly shows the difference.

Most noticeable is the difference in the style of "E's" in "ONE" and "CENT". All genuine 1869's exhibit what I call "Square E's" (like a carpenter's square) with the middle limb looking like a sideways "T". Compare this with the counterfeit specimen which displays what collectors have termed "Trumpet E's"; namely, as its name suggests, looks like a trumpet. Some numismatists also call this trumpet style E the bulging N variety as this reverse hub also exhibits deep bulging N's versus the shallow N's typically seen on the square E reverses. As mentioned, the trumpet E's were not employed by the mint on any reverse dies until 1870, and were used nearly exclusively on all reverse dies until the termination of the series in 1909.

The first trumpet E reverse is not seen until 1870. Although the square E is seen in 1870 it is seldom seen afterwards (a notable exception is the 1877). Why would the counterfeit piece exhibit the wrong reverse? One guess is that the guilty party purchased an uncirculated 1869 that had a damaged reverse, possibly a gouge, heavy scratch, or even a Love token. This he could obtain considerably cheaper than regular price and then buy a common late date Indian for the reverse model (in fact, the reverse looks like it is from 1900 or later due to certain diagnostics). It is also possible the reverse of the genuine 1869 coin was damaged during manufacturing of the bogus obverse die. However, the greatest likelihood is that the charlatan produced this die from a later-dated model coin and subsequently muled this reverse die with several obverse dies including an 1869, unaware of the mistake he was making.

Therefore, it is important to recognize this reverse die. One tiny blemish occurs as a small bump on the rim near 5 O'clock as shown in the photo. This is a diagnostic of this counterfeit reverse and may be apparent if muled with other obverse coinage so be aware! This small bump may appear stronger or lighter on other counterfeit pieces.

Having an incorrect reverse die suggests that the piece was struck rather than cast. Once determined it was a bad piece, I examined the specimen under magnification for other tell-tale diagnostics of counterfeit coins.

The following observations make a good rule of thumb when examining high-grade key series dated Indian cents.

1. There was a light porosity or roughness to the planchet. Dies produced outside the mints are generally not as smooth, especially in the fields, and sometimes even exhibit pitting. Although this piece did not display any pitting, it did show some granularity as shown in the close-up photo of the obverse Indian and 9 O'clock area of the coin.
2. Often you hear of the lack of detail in counterfeit strikes -- rounded details on hair curls, lettering and digits, and wreath areas, as well as missing die cracks, polish lines, and clash marks that is so often seen on US type coins. The same was true of this piece.

The obverse of this piece did exhibit clashing in front of the Indian princess' forehead (a common area) as well as a die crack running along UNITED STATES. However, neither of these features were as sharp as they should have been. Die cracks are crisp tears in the die. This piece exhibited die cracks that were blunt. Imagine going to the beach with a sharp wooden stick and carving a jagged line in the beach sand. This corresponds to a die crack. Now if a wave were to gently roll over it, the die crack becomes "washed out" with a very rounded look. This is what the die crack on the counterfeit 1869 reminded me of, as well as the die clash; a very rounded look with a loss of detail.

Before buying a high grade key or semi-key dated Indian it would be in your best interest to evaluate it thoroughly.

BROKEN LEGEND HUB VARIETIES

by Donald R. Curry

An easily identifiable variety that has received very little attention through the years is the broken legend hub. This variety appears in at least eight years of the Flying Eagle/Indian Cent tenure, and its source may be attributed to a defect in a working hub and possibly more than one working hub.

In the Flying Eagle series, one major variety has been identified, the 1857 S-13. This is the "UNITFD" die with the base of the E missing (or broken) to look like an F. This was discovered by Frank Van Valen, and the hub probably affected only one defective working die.

The "Broken R" variety first appears in 1959 in the Hub Style of 1858 - 1860. The R in America is disjointed at the top, resulting in the "Broken R". This variety again appears in the 1960 type 1 "Pointed Bust" variety as featured on the cover of Longacre's Ledger, Spring, 1994. This reappearance may indicate that the source was a defective working hub, as the "Broken R" appears identical in both years.



"The Flying E" variety, as nicknamed by Larry Steve, appears in 1861. The variety exhibits a break at the top of the E in STATES, with a tail-like

serif west, and a break to the west of the upper serifs in the last S. This variety is also referred to as the "Broken ES" variety. This variety has not been seen on any 1862 pieces, but it does reappear in 1863.

The "Broken D" variety first appears in 1872 (see photo), and its source must be a defective working hub, as it appears in significant numbers in later years. The D in UNITED is clearly disjointed at the top. The variety is relatively common on the Open 3 variety of 1873, appears in lesser numbers on the Closed 3 variety, and it has been reported on the 1874 and 1875. My thanks to Chris Pilliod for his photographic work on this interesting variety.

Amazingly, the broken legend hubs seem to disappear after 1875, possibly due to some changes in the hub inspection procedures at the mint or the creation of a yet to be discovered hoard of broken legend varieties. This variety should not be confused with missing letters or portions of letters caused by grease-filled dies or other "struck-thru" errors. In most cases, the broken legend hub variety is very distinctive and easily identifiable. The author would enjoy your comments and other findings of this type variety: 905 Fort Worth Club Building, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

WANTED TO BUY : VARIETIES

I am a serious collector of varieties - primarily repunched dates, overdates and doubled dies. I prefer VF or better (Full LIBERTY). Paying 5 to 50% over CDN Bid, depending upon condition and type of variety. Write first!

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This all new reference book presents a comprehensive review of selected rare Flying Eagle and Indian cent die varieties. In addition, recently uncovered and previously unpublished archival documents, letters and other historic papers are disclosed. Available in softcover and a limited edition hardcover and "notebook format", the book examines some of the major double dies, repunched dates, misplaced dates and other unusual varieties in extensive detail - 700+ photos (50 color), 244 pgs. (8 1/2 x 11).

Most intriguing are the three different 1857 Flying Eagle cents, each showing a clash mark from another denomination!

If you are a collector of Flying Eagle and Indian cents, this reference is a must. The rarity and pricing information alone is worth the cost of the book. Order today!

The Authoritative Reference

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT DIE VARIETIES

By
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HOW MANY ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

by Jerry Wysong

Help!! My cup runneth over! In my previous article; I noted that the months of January - March had been very meager with respect to new finds being reported. Since then; I have received a number of letters and notes with a plethora of new finds and previously unreported finds. Listed below are 41 entries into the census not counting mutiple finds of the same variety/grade by a single individual. My thanks to all of you who contributed to this article by reporting your finds.

I also received a number of suggestions; the most notable being the idea of somehow including relative rarity ratings into the tables. I believe this is doable and some details as well as permission from Larry Steve need to be worked out since Larry has already included this information in his new book; and I don't believe in plagiarism.

Regarding the *Census* — Some members have the perception that a complete census of ALL the varieties are maintained by me (formerly by Doug Hill). Such is not the case. The only census data currently being maintained are for those varieties listed in the four tables in this article. To maintain census data for all varieties would be a major undertaking and a full time job in my humble opinion. I believe Doug Hill was on the right track when he started this article a few years ago; in initiating the census for those varieties which are both popular and dramatic or major in nature. Those varieties which are fun to find but subtle in nature, are not candidates for the census at this time because of low interest level. However, yon - the club members - have the final say on this subject. So; let's hear from you. As a suggestion; how about maintaining a top 10 condition census for all varieties and publishing this once a year? You can call or write me:

Jerry Wysong
P.O. Box 292561
Dayton, Ohio 45429
Ph. (513) 436-1448

(My apologies to those who may have tried to call me. I just noticed that there was an error in my phone number in last months article. I am and continue to be my own worst proof reader)

Show wise; the spring months of April, May and June were very active from my view point with a good collector base looking for nice quality coins in various series as well as Flying Eagle or Indian Head Cents. The Central States Show in Milwaukee was an absolute zoo. I was lucky to get away from the table long enough to take a potty break. Needless to say, I was not able to work the floor to search for varieties or anything else for that matter. The few pieces I purchased were walk-ups or out of boxes other dealers left at the table for me to go through. The Gold Show in St. Louis was very poorly attended by the public. For some reason, the public seems to shy away from the Cervantes Convention Center in St Louis; but they show up in droves for the two shows held out by the airport at the Henry VIII Hotel and Convention Center. I actually enjoyed the Gold Show in the sense that I was able to thoroughly go through each dealers coins and made some new contacts as well; and still found time to have dinner with some of my Best Half Nut friends. The Indiana State Show was well attended, but most dealers reported Saturday sales were off from Friday sales. The serious collectors were out in force on Friday and in general the window shoppers were there on Saturday. Other monthly and club shows here in the Dayton area have been very brisk. Nice Indian Head cents continue to be in strong demand at all shows with more IHC collectors also looking for varieties. At the shows mentioned above; no major varieties were reported to me as being cherry picked or other wise. Perhaps Rick, who was in attendance at the Central States show knows otherwise. Although it seemed Rick kept changing his table location and to find him was a real *find*. Sorry Rick, the devil made me say that; but what a perfect lead-in for the census data.

The *finds* reported to me for the period April - June 1995 are listed below:

DOUBLE DIES

1. 1887 S-1; ANACS AU-50; Don Curry
2. 1868 S-1; ANACS MS-64 R/B; Don Curry
3. 1865 S-2; VF-20; Whaden Curtis
4. 1887 S-1; Good; Mike Ellis
5. 1891 S-1; Good; Mike Ellis
6. 1870 S-1; EF-40; Mike Ellis
7. 1870 S-1; AU-50; Mike Ellis
8. 1887 S-1; EF-40; Mike Ellis
9. 1889 S-1; Good; Mike Ellis

REPUNCHED DATES

1. 1865/4 S-1; ANACS AU-55; William Walker
2. 1894/4 S-1; VG; William Walker
3. 1872/182 S-1; ANACS AU-55; William Walker
4. 1866/1 S-3; ANACS MS-62 Brn; Don Curry
5. 1867/7 S-1; F-15; Don Curry
6. 1867/7 S-1; ANACS MS-64 R/B; Don Curry
7. 1857/57 S-II; EF-40; Mike Ellis
8. 1867/67 S-1; EF-40; Mike Ellis
9. 1894/4 S-1; G (4pcs); Chris Pilliod
10. 1888/7 S-1; VF-35; Allan Mays
11. 1867/67 S-1; ANACS MS-62 R/B; Chris Stocker
12. 1894/4 S-1; G/VG (5pcs.); Don Curry
13. 1894/4 S-1; ANACS F-12; Don Curry
14. 1867/7 S-1; AG-3; Don Curry
15. 1867/7 S-1; ANACS MS-64 Brn.; Don Curry
16. 1894/4 S-1; F-12 (3pcs.); Mike Ellis
17. 1866/1 S-3; Good; Mike Ellis
18. 1894/94 S-1; Good; Mike Ellis
19. 1867/67 S-1; MS-63; Allan Mays
20. 1857/57 S-11; ANACS MS-63; Larry Steve
21. 1857/57 S-11; ANACS MS-62; Larry Steve

CLASHED DIES

1. 1857 50c Obv. S-9; PCGS MS-63; Chris Stocker
2. 1857 50c Obv. S-9; F-12; Whaden Curtis
3. 1857 25c Rev. S-8; AU-50; John Kappy

MISPLACED DATES

1. 1897 I-in-Neck; G/VG; Don Curry
2. 1897 I-in-Neck; ANACS F-15; Don Curry
3. 1897 I-in-Neck S-1; AU; Chris Stocker
4. 1897 I-in-Neck S-1; Good; Mike Ellis
5. 1897 I-in-Neck; AU William Walker
6. 1883 I-in-Neck; ANACS AU-50; Don Curry
7. 1884 4-in-Dent; ANACS AU-50; Don Curry
(Acquired from C. Pilliod)
8. 1870 0-in-Dent. S-5; Good; Mike Ellis

DOUBLE DIE TABLE

	G/VG	F	VF	EF	AU	****MINT STATE****				TOTAL
						60/62	63	64	65	
1864 DDO BZ	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
1865 I-R-IV	S-2	5	0	4	1	2	2	2	1	17
1866 I-O-V	S-1	1	3	8	7	3	2	1	2	0
1868 I-O-III	S-1	0	0	2	4	3	1	4	4	0
1870 I-O-IV(3)	S-1	0	0	2	8	6	6	4	7	0
1870 2-O-IV	S-3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
1870 3-O-IV	S-5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
1873 1-O-III	S-1	30	16	16	14	15	6	2	2	102
1873 2-O-III	S-2	0	1	4	9	10	7	6	3	42
1874 DDO:EDS	S-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
1880 I-O-IV	S-1	0	0	2	0	2	1	4	2	13
1887 I-O-V	S-1	23	9	4	7	3	0	1	1	0
1889 I-R-III	S-1	2	1	2	4	2	1	1	1	15
1890 I-O-II(3)	S-1	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	1	9
1891 I-O-IV	S-1	6	1	4	3	5	1	1	2	24

MISPLACED DATE TABLE

****MINT STATE****										
	G/VG	F	VF	EF	AU	60/62	63	64	65	TOTAL
1870 0 in Dent S-5		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
1883 1 in Neck S-1						1				1
1884 4 in Dent S-1						1				1
1888 8 in Dent S-8										0
1894 94 in Dent S-2										
1897 1 in Neck S-1		24	15	7	11	5	2	3	0	67
1902 0 in Dent S-1										

REPUNCHED DATE TABLE

****MINT STATE****										
	G/VG	F	VF	EF	AU	60/62	63	64	65	TOTAL
1857/57	S-11	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
1858/57 EDS	S-1	1	1	11	9	12	3	2	5	44
1859/1859	S-1	4	1	0	3	5	1	0	1	0
1865/4 Fancy	S-1	3	0	0	2	4	0	1	1	0
1865/4 Plain	S-1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	1
1866/1	S-3	2	2	3	0	1	3	1	2	1
1867/67	S-1	23	7	12	7	3	6	6	14	5
1869/18	S-1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
1872/182	S-1	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	4	1
1888/7 die#1	S-1	4	1	3	1	0	2	1	0	1
1891/1891	S-3	7	2	6	3	5	2	5	5	0
1894/1894	S-1	67	8	10	7	3	3	6	6	4
										114

CLASHED DIE TABLE

****MINT STATE****										
	G/VG	F	VF	EF	AU	60/62	63	64	65	TOTAL
1857 \$20 Obv.	S-7	4	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	10
1857 25c Rev	S-8	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	0	12
1857 50c Obv.	S-9	4	4	5	0	1	1	1	1	18

LATE DATE INDIAN CENT VARIETIES 1886 TYPE 2-1899

by Douglas W. Hill
Fly In Club Life Member

This time I want to present the 1888 H-14 die marriage. I own the discovery piece which grades EF-40. The obverse is an early die state example while the reverse displays flow lines which at least at first glance appear to be mid die state. Also on the reverse is an easily noticeable cud between the upper right part of the shield and the dentils.

As many of you know, one of the first questions that I ask when I see a new die marriage is- How rare is it? Of course we won't know for sure until the outstanding examples are identified and counted. However, I feel that one of two outcomes are most likely. The first possibility is that the reverse die failed early in the die's life. In this case impurities in the metal could have caused the reverse die to become malleable which produced more pronounced flow lines than normal after a limited number of strikes. If in fact this happened, then the 1888 H-14 will prove to be a rare die marriage. If the flow lines on the reverse die, however, are the result of a more sustained use of the die (i.e. my coin actually is mid die state) then I expect more examples to turn up. Since the obverse of my coin is an early die state it is possible that another obverse die (which failed) was mated with the reverse die prior to the 1888 H-14 die marriage. Who knows?

The date placement numbers are located below the obverse line drawing. Please consult my article in the Spring 1995 "Ledger" for a detailed explanation of these numbers. However, for those short on time, the serif of the 1 is slightly to the left of the bust point and the left base of the 1 is above the upper half of a dentil. Also the 1 is slightly closer to the bust point than to the dentils. The lapping line between the top of Longacre's L and feather 9 in particular and the lines between the ear and the upper part of the middle curl are easily recognizable.

The format of the 1888 H-14 on the following page is similar to how it will look in my book. If you feel that you have an example of this die marriage please contact me at P.O. Box 1483 Winter Park, Florida 32790 or 407-644-6923.



1888



H-14

6323

OBVERSE: A heavy line connects the top of Longacre's L with feather 9. Two lines connect the ear with the upper portion of the middle curl while two other lines are visible in feather 8 just to the right of the headband. Two light lines run to the right of the ribbon opposite diamond 1. Below them another light line runs to the southeast. A short almost verticle line connects to a die chip in the lower part of the upper loop of the third 8 in early die state examples.

REVERSE: No die markers are visible.

DIE STATES: Mid die state examples exhibit a cud between the top of the shield and the dentils. Two die cracks run from the upper right wreath to the shield and dentils.

1896 HORNED 9

by W.O. Walker

The collecting of Indian Head cent varieties continues to be an enjoyable and extremely interesting avocation. Each new issue of the journal shares new information, discoveries and member's thoughts regarding this amazing series.

One such discovery that I would like to share with my fellow hunter's is this die chip variety that I purchased at a coin show in Auburn, Mass. back in August of 1993. For obvious reason as evidenced by the accompanying photo, I have dubbed this variety the "Horned 9".



The coin sat in my collection for several months before I sent it to Chris Pilliod, the club authenticator, for his opinion and photographing. Although the "horn" does somewhat resemble the flag of a 5, I was sure it was a die chip and Chris backed up my opinion. Looking closely, Chris pointed out that there is a narrow gap between the "horn" and the 5, further indication of a die break. What I didn't see, and that Chris subsequently pointed out, was that there also appeared to be a repunched 8 to the west of the original 8! Chris went on to say that as a die chip this could be extremely rare and

encouraged me to write a short article on it for the Ledger.

I would appreciate hearing from other members with similar pieces and encourage all to share their discoveries and unlisted varieties in the pages of this journal.

Until next time, keep looking and happy hunting!

THE F.I.N.D.E.R.S™ REPORT

by Larry R. Steve
Fly-In Club Life Member

Although technically not a die variety, grease filled dies presents some rather unusual finds. Generally, what occurs is that, like many pieces of machinery, grease is used to provide lubrication to some moving part --and there are a number of moving parts on a die press. Occasionally, this grease finds its way into the die itself, filling a void that might otherwise represent some design feature of the coin when struck. When this happens, that part of the design feature can not be fully struck up, as the grease is in the cavity of the die into which metal of the planchet would normally be compressed.

The first photo is of an 1888 with the two middle 8's barely visible. Evidently, the incused image of these 8's on the die from the date punch was quite full of grease, resulting in this odd looking date.





The next specimen is even more bizarre! It's of an 1862 with a considerable amount of the legend, as well as the date, obliterated by this phenomenon.



Trying to find one of these for every date would certainly be a most unusual and challenging pursuit. Keep bunting.

Explore and enjoy.

EDITOR'S NOTE: FIND.ERS IS A TRADEMARK OF LARRY R. STEVE AND IS USED WITHIN THIS JOURNAL WITH HIS PERMISSION.

LARRY R. STEVE for PRESIDENT

The idea to form a specialty club devoted to the study of Flying Eagle and Indian cents originated toward the end of 1989 when I was unable to find any good reference material on these series of coins. During the early part of 1990, I began writing to a few collector and dealer friends sharing as much information as possible, suggesting that we should form a democratic club for this very purpose. Then in the summer of 1990, I came in contact with Rick Snow and, together, we were able to make this Club a reality. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

With that said, I am formally announcing my candidacy for President for the 1996-97 term. Democracy is a wonderful process to see at work; and with a democratic organization such as our Club, each member, dealer and collector alike, have an equal voice. Each and every vote is important, so please vote. In addition, your comments are most welcomed.

Our Club has grown at a considerable rate, and it is important to identify and differentiate the interests of the Club as a whole for each member. Under my leadership, I will work to preserve and protect the integrity, independence, and continuity of our Club. The foundation for this would lie in its Constitution and By-laws.

The vitality of our Club is in its members -- through their research, dedication and enthusiasm. As we move toward the 21st Century, let's ensure that "The Fly-In Club" remains in the forefront of a renewed spirit and interest in numismatics. Asking you for your vote.

Thank you,

*Larry R. Steve
Fly-In #2 LM*

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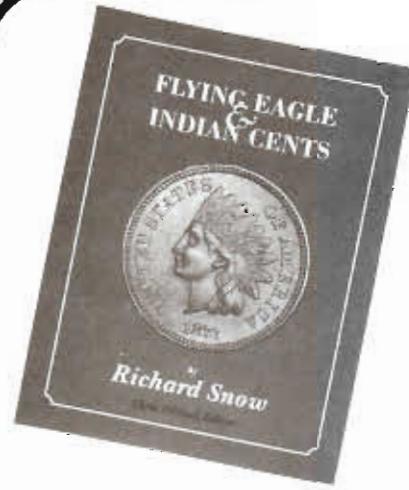
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